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BOOK MESSAGE AS BELOW

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PERIOD
NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF
(REPORT IS SLANTED. REMAINING INFO RELEASEABLE TO LIAISON.)
1. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: THE CRASE-PYRE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN
IMPLEMENTED 1 NOV BECAME EFFECTIVE 4 NOV WITH ARRIVAL OF A MALIAN
COMMISSIONER AT THE FRONT. A SECOND MALIAN OFFICER AND TWO ETHIOPIAN
COMMISSIONERS APPARENTLY ARE STILL TO COME.
//ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE HAS AGAIN CONTACTED KING
HASSAN AND PRESIDENT BEN BELLA TO URGE THEM TO CONFER THE CRASE-
PYRE. HE INFORMED THEM THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
PROBABLY WOULD BE CONVENED IN ADDIS ABABA IN TWO WEEKS, THE DELAY
BEING DUE TO SLOWNESS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES // THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE HOSTILITIES AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

2. JOSEPH: FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES 31 OCT KING HUSAYN
STILL HOPES TO PERSUADE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GOVERNMENT.

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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-PAGE TWO-

HUSAYN IS HOPEFUL TO INCREASE THE REGIME'S POPULARITY AND REDUCE THE DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. HE APPARENTLY ALSO BELIEVES APPOINTMENT OF SUCH "NATIONALIST" ELEMENTS TO THE CABINET WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN Rapprochement. HUSAYN IS ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH CAIRO BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS A MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO JORDAN FROM THE BAATHIST REGIMES IN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.

HUSAYN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION RECENTLY HAVE FOCUSED ON SULAIMAN NABULSI A PRO-NASSIR FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY. SO FAR THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE NABULSI AND HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES WANT MORE REPRESENTATION THAN HUSAYN IS PREPARED TO GRANT THEM.

ON 31 OCT THE KING APPOINTED NABULSI TO THE SECRETARIAT. CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY DO NOT ESSENTIALLY CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WILL BE RECEIVED WITH INDIFFERENCE BY THE JORDANIAN PUBLIC. THE RESIGNATION OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS CABINET AND THE FORTY TWO APPOINTMENTS, ACCOMPANIED

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-PAGE THREE-

SOME RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES, MAY CONSTITUTE AN IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH PRIME MINISTER SHABIP HUSAYN FORMERLY HEADED, PROBABLY WILL NOW HAVE FIRMER LEADERSHIP UNDER ABUTI ATALLAH, A PROMINENT AND RESPECTED LAWYER AND BANKER FROM JERUSALEM. TWO OF THE OTHER APPOINTMENTS WILL REPLACE MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION. (CONF)

3. SYRIA: THE BAATHIST REGIME'S SOCIALIST MEASURES AND ITS PURGES OF NONBAATHIST MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE RAPIDLY ANTAGONIZING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN SOCIETY.

SYRIA'S INFLUENTIAL UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES HAVE BEEN ALIENATED BY THE REGIME'S RECENT ATTACK ON THE "BOURGEOISIE" AND BY ITS DECLARED INTENTION TO ELIMINATE PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE TO "COLLECTIVIZE" FARMING AND TO DEVELOP WORKER ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRY. THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFENDED BY EARLIER RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND BY A RECENT REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT SALARIES.

ALTHOUGH THE REGIME IS MAKING A STRONG BID FOR SUPPORT OF SYRIA'S PEASANTS AND WORKERS, THESE ELEMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED ONLY

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A MINOR ROLE IN SYRIAN POLITICS.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WELL-EDUCATED AND TECHNICALLY TRAINED SYRIANS ARE SEEKING WAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEIR DEPARTURE COULD CRIPPLE THE BAATHIST EFFORT TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

THEY IS NO INDICATION THAT DISSECTED MEMBERS OF THE UPNP OR MIDDLE CLASSES ARE FORMING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. BUT THE PURGING OF NON-BAATHIST ARMY OFFICERS HAS ALIENATED ANOTHER IMPORTANT GROUP WHICH COULD POSE A SERIOUS POTENTIAL THREAT TO CONTINUED BAATHIST RULE. (CONT)

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